

General Mailability Standards

All mailpieces (except keys and identification devices mailed under the applicable standards) that are 1/4 inch thick or less must be rectangular, at least 3-1/2 inches high, and at least 5 inches long. All mailable matter must be at least 0.007 inch thick, weigh no more than 70 pounds, and be no more than 108 inches in length and girth combined (C010). See appropriate Quick Service Guides for the eligibility and dimensional standards that apply to each class of mail or rate of postage.

Mail Processing Categories (C050)

Based strictly on the physical dimensions of the mailpiece regardless of address placement, all mail is assigned to one of the five mail processing categories listed below.

Letter-Size Mail

Dimensions:

- At least 5 inches long, 3-1/2 inches high, and 0.007 inch thick.
- Not more than 11-1/2 inches long, 6-1/8 inches high, or 0.25 inch thick.

Flat-Size Mail

Dimensions:

- More than 11-1/2 inches long, or more than 6-1/8 inches high, or more than 0.25 inch thick.
- Not more than 15 inches long, 12 inches high, or 0.75 inch thick (Standard Mail (A) Enhanced Carrier Route rate pieces may not be more than 14 inches long, 11-3/4 inches high, or 0.75 inch thick).

May be wrapped, unwrapped, sleeved, or enveloped.

For automation rate flats, see Quick Service Guide 820.

Machinable Parcels

Dimensions:

- At least 6 inches long, 3 inches high, 0.25 inch thick.
- Not more than 34 inches long, 17 inches high, 17 inches thick.

Weight: at least 8 ounces, but not more than 35 pounds (books and other printed matter, 25 pounds); pieces between 6 and 8 ounces are machinable if all sides are rectangular and meet or exceed the other minimum dimensions.

Irregular Parcels

Parcels that do not meet the dimensional criteria of machinable parcels and other parcels that cannot be processed by parcel sorters, including:

- Rolls and tubes up to 26 inches long and merchandise samples not individually addressed.
- Unwrapped, paper-wrapped, or sleeve-wrapped articles that are not letter-size or flat-size.
- Articles enclosed in envelopes that are not letter-size, flat-size, or machinable parcels.

Outside Parcels

Parcels that exceed the dimensions and standards for the other categories. (See C050.6 for specific criteria.) Might be subject to surcharge (E620.2).

Packaging and Acceptability (C010)

The USPS accepts properly packaged and marked parcels but reserves the right to refuse nonmailable or improperly packaged articles or substances. Items must be packaged to withstand mail processing and transportation (C010.3). Markings for handling, content, and service are placed below the postage and above the address (C010.8).

Restricted and Nonmailable Matter (C020, C030)

For restricted or nonmailable articles or substances, see C020. For nonmailable written, printed, and graphic matter, see C030.

Additional Resources:

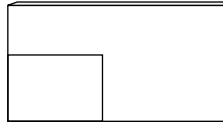
Pub. 52, *Acceptance of Hazardous, Restricted, or Perishable Matter*

Pub. 14, *Prohibitions and Restrictions on Mailing Animals, Plants, and Related Matter*

This guide is an overview only. For the specific DMM standards applicable to this category of mail, consult the DMM sections referenced above and the general sections within each DMM module.

Basic Mailability and Processing Categories

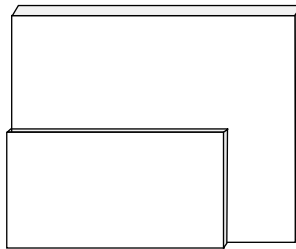
Letter-Size Mail



	Minimum	Maximum
Height	3-1/2"	6-1/8"
Length	5"	11-1/2"
Thickness	0.007"	1/4"

Flat-Size Mail

May be wrapped, unwrapped, sleeved, or enveloped.



	Minimum*	Maximum
Height more than	6-1/8"	12"
Length more than	11-1/2"	15"
Thickness more than	1/4"	3/4"

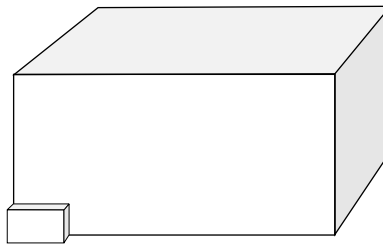
Standard Mail (A) Carrier Route Flat

Height more than	6-1/8"	11-3/4"
Length more than	11-1/2"	14"
Thickness more than	1/4"	3/4"

*Must exceed at least one of these letter-size maximums.

Machinable Parcels

Weight: at least 8 ounces, but not more than 35 pounds (books and other printed matter, 25 pounds); pieces between 6 and 8 ounces are machinable if all sides are rectangular and meet or exceed other minimum dimensions.

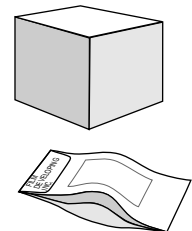
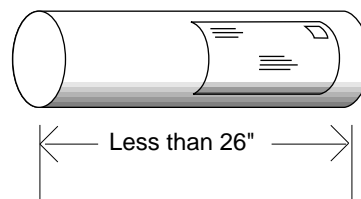


	Minimum	Maximum
Height	3"	17"
Length	6"	34"
Thickness	1/4"	17"

Irregular Parcels

Parcels that do not meet dimensional criteria of machinable parcels and other parcels that cannot be processed by parcel sorters, including:

- Rolls and tubes up to 26 inches long and merchandise samples not individually addressed.
- Unwrapped, paper-wrapped, or sleeve-wrapped articles that are not letter-size or flat-size.
- Articles enclosed in envelopes that are not letter-size, flat-size, or machinable parcels.

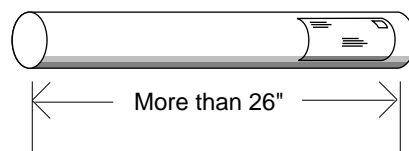


Outside Parcels

Parcels that exceed dimensions and standards for other categories. (See C050.6 for specific criteria.) May be subject to surcharge (E620.2).



Metal-strapped boxes



Liquid containers